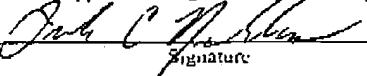


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FRANK C. NICHOLAS (33,983)  
Name of applicant, assignee or registered representative

  
Signature

February 5, 2004  
Date of Signature

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PATENT  
Case No. DP-305565  
(7500/87)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
BRYAN P. RIDDIFORD, ET AL. )  
Serial No. 10/081,122 ) Examiner: WILLIAMS, THOMAS J.  
Filed: FEBRUARY 22, 2002 ) Group Art Unit: 3683  
Title: FAST MODE RELEASE IN A FORCE )  
GENERATING APPARATUS )

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 6, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22202-1450

Dear Sir:

This is a response to a Non-Final Office Action dated January 6, 2004. The Applicants respond as follows: